

## REPORT

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 31st January 1903.

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## ASSAM PAPERS.

Nil.



## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

**THE *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen*** [Calcutta] of the 19th January hopes that the officer whom the Government of India has appointed to settle the dispute that has arisen between Persia and Afghanistan in respect of certain lands on the frontier of those countries will settle the dispute impartially and to the satisfaction of both the parties.

**ROZNAMA-I-MUKADDAS HABLUL MATEEN,**  
Jan. 19th, 1903.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 20th January hopes that the Subdivisional Officer, and the Police Inspector of Tangail in the Mymensingh district will put down *budmashi* in the villages Sialkhol, Nokashpara, Jugi-hati and Gokulnagar. The *budmashes* forcibly take away things from vendors in the Sialkhol hât, cheat people by the card trick on the District Board road, and even commit highway robbery.

**CHARU MIHIR,**  
Jan. 20th, 1903.

3. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 21st January thanks the Bengal Government for having presented a Mauser rifle-gun to Dr. Nirad Chandra Mitra of the Haripal village in the Hooghly district as a reward for the courage shown by him by catching a dacoit. Government has disarmed the people, but the people can still find some little consolation if such bravery is rewarded among them in this way.

**SRI SRI VISHNU-PRIYA-O-ANANDA-BAZAR PATRIKA,**  
Jan. 21st, 1903.

4. The same paper says that on the occasion of Lord Curzon's recent visit to Gaya town, the District Superintendent of Police issued a notice to the effect that any one approaching the Collector's house without a pass signed by him or the District Magistrate, or attempting to present a petition personally to His Excellency, would be at once arrested and prosecuted. The Viceroy is the Lord of India and Indians consider it great good fortune to have a look at him even if only once in their lives. Where would have been the offence for which a man was to be arrested if he had approached His Excellency? Ah! the offence would have been the offence of looking respectfully at Lord Curzon.

**SRI SRI VISHNU-PRIYA-O-ANANDA-BAZAR PATRIKA,**

5. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January says:—  
On the occasion of Lord Curzon's recent visit to Gaya town the following notice was circulated:—  
“Any one approaching the Collector's house without a pass signed by the District Magistrate or the District Superintendent, or any one approaching His Excellency or attempting to give petitions to His Excellency personally, will be at once arrested and prosecuted.” The fame of the Delhi Darbar had filled the minds of the people with romantic ideas about the Viceroy, and they longed to see the great man who had played such a conspicuous part in Delhi, and who had had precedence even of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught. We doubt whether King Edward VII himself prohibits people from approaching his residence. Viceroys never prohibit people from approaching the Calcutta Government House. We don't think that the Magistrate of Gaya's order had Lord Curzon's sanction. This is an instance of the sort of treatment which the people receive at the hands of the executive officers. We do not know under what law the order was issued; but this much we know that the police and Magistrates can, if they desire, insult, oppress and even punish people.

**SANJIVANI,**  
Jan. 22nd, 1903.

6. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd January has heard a complaint from traders who send their goods in boats by the Hooghly river that for some years past dacoities have been committed on their boats between Bali khal and Ballabhpur without any steps being taken to prevent the crime. The result is that boatmen do not now dare to pass the place by night. The dacoits are generally 20 or 22 in number and are armed with *daos* and *lathis*. Dacoities

**HITAVADI,**  
Jan. 23rd, 1903.



have been committed this year also. The police cannot be ignorant of these dacoities, because the attention of the authorities was drawn to them though without effect.

**BANKURA  
DARPA,**  
Jan. 23rd, 1902.

7. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd January says that recently Babu Chandra Mohan Das, a rich inhabitant of the Bikrampur village under the Raipur thana in the Bankura district, and his son were travelling in a carriage from his house to Bankura town. Near the Karakanali jungle they were attacked by their enemies with *lathis*. The father was killed and the son is in a dying state. Such murders are rather frequently occurring this year in the Bankura district. But the police has not been able to trace even one of them. Beni Mahapatra's son, Sarat, asked for detective help for tracing his father's murderers, but he has not received it. A prominent feature of these murders is that the murdered man is invariably a well-to-do man. Government is requested to engage detectives for capturing the culprits.

**BASUMATI,**  
Jan. 24th, 1903.

8. Referring to the case of Bartlett, engine-driver of Asansol, against Dr. Mitra of that place, which is now pending before the Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah, the *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 24th January says that a certain matter in connection with the case has

Treatment of an accused person by the District Superintendent of Police, Burdwan.

greatly surprised the writer. It is the conduct of Babu Ras Bihari Biswas, District Superintendent of Police, Burdwan, who, disregarding the result of the investigation held in the case by the Police Inspector, personally held an investigation, and not content with sending up the accused under various charges, subjected him to indignities which might justify one in thinking that the accused had committed a dacoity or excited a rebellion. The District Superintendent was, indeed, enthusiastic in his support of the complainant and his wife, and could not have shewn greater energy if the accused had committed a capitally punishable offence.

As the Deputy Magistrate of Sealdah has refused to grant the complainant's prayer to withdraw the case, and as the case is to proceed, the District Superintendent's evidence ought to be taken in the course of the hearing in order to clear up the point why he treated the accused with such *zubberdust*.

**BANGAVASI,**  
Jan. 24th, 1903.

9. Referring to the correspondence which has been published in the *Bengalee* and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* regarding the oppression of a highly respectable person by the police on the occasion of the Coronation festivities in a place, the name of which has not been disclosed, the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th January says:—

An alleged case of police oppression.

The letter in the English papers has acquainted the public with the facts of the case and has also brought them to the notice of the authorities. Many people are unwilling to believe the story told by the writer of the letter. But we see nothing in the story to be surprised at. As the rising and the setting of the sun and the moon do not astonish us, so this story, too, has not astonished us. We have several times witnessed in Calcutta occurrences like that narrated by the writer of the letter. If a policeman is ill-treated by anybody, numbers of his comrades come to the place, and if the real offender is not found, they lay violent hands on anybody they meet with. Such occurrences are not rare in Calcutta itself, and their frequency has made us look upon them as nothing extraordinary or unusual. We have therefore nothing to say about the occurrence. But those who are desirous of reforming the police, those who are enquiring into the manner in which the police work, and those who think that the public peace will be better ensured by reforming the police should listen to the correspondent's tale of sorrow and ascertain its truth.

If it be true, as the correspondent says, that the police has publicly apologised to him, the police stands condemned. If again it be true, as the correspondent says, that the Magistrate and the Deputy Magistrate advised him not to prosecute the police and that the District Superintendent of Police wanted to make up between him and the police, it is a matter for congratulation that the matter did not come up before a law court, but the police stands condemned all the same.

Sir Andrew Fraser, President of the Police Commission, should note the correspondent's complaint, which implicates everybody from the District



Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police to the common constable and the chaukidar.

10. The same paper says that lawlessness is on the increase in the

Lawlessness in the Kishorganj Subdivision of the Mymensingh district.

Kishorganj Subdivision of the Mymensingh district. Not to speak of outrage on female modesty, the very lives of men have recently become unsafe in that subdivision. Some months ago, a respectable mukhtear of the place was murdered in his bed. Sometime later, the post-master of Katiadi Bazar was murdered. But the murderer in neither case has yet been traced. A few days ago some thieves entered the house of Babu Bhairab Chandra Rai, pleader of Kishorganj, and in searching for the key of his iron chest, touched his body. This awakened Bhairat Babu and the thieves attempted to kill him with a dagger. But the dagger passed through the quilt and struck his wife. The cries of husband and wife awakened the servants and the thieves fled.

BANGAVARI,  
Jan. 24th, 1903.

11. The *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 25th January learns from

An attempted theft and murder in Mymensingh.

another paper that on the night of the 11th December last, after Babu Bhairab Chandra Rai, pleader of Mymensingh, had retired to bed with his wife, some thieves entered his bed-room and, in the act of feeling for the key of the Babu's iron chest, touched his body and thus awakened him. But finding nobody near him he again fell asleep and the dacoits attempted to kill him. They however succeeded only in slightly wounding his wife, as the blow was deadened by a quilt. The cries of the lady brought the servants into the room and the thieves fled. The police have up to the present failed to trace the offenders. So, *budmashes* are growing more and more rampant in Mymensingh; and it is difficult to see why the Government fails to notice the inefficiency of the police.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Jan. 25th, 1903.

12. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 25th January writes as follows:—

Murders in Backergunge.

It is doubtful whether any other district in Bengal can show so many murders in a year as are committed in Backergunge during an equal space of time. The matter is always under the consideration of Government, and as a result of its deliberations gun licenses have almost ceased to be issued, and a survey and allotment of the district has been undertaken. It is notorious that the murders are more numerous in the cold season than in any other part of the year, which shows that agrarian disputes are the main cause of the crime, the cold season being the time of the year when the cultivators reap their harvest. Now, the low class agriculturists in Backergunge, in spite of Mr. Buckland's remark that they are "unhealthily fat," are really poor, hard-worked, hungry and emaciated men, who are sustained in their daily toil by the hope of reaping a bumper crop in the cold season, and who become mad with anger and grow lawless if they find anybody bent on depriving them of their hard-earned reward of labour.

BIKAS,  
Jan. 25th, 1903.

The number of gun-shot murders has perceptibly decreased since the issue of gun licenses was restricted. But the number of murders has gone on increasing instead of diminishing. It is clear therefore that Government's action in the matter of gun licenses has proved a failure; while it has done no good, it has, by depriving the people of their firearms, been productive of many injurious and undesirable consequences. As regards the survey and settlement one cannot have much faith in that measure. It is expected by the authorities that the present survey and settlement of Backergunge, when completed, will bring the people peace. Nobody knows when it will be completed, and whether any one will be left to see that completion and enjoy that peace. For the present however the survey and settlement are doing harm instead of good. It is undeniable that murders this year have reached a higher figure than for many years past. There can be no doubt that, as is shown by the frequent occurrence of what are commonly called "purcha murders," the progress of the survey and settlement work mainly accounts for this increase. More than one person have received "purchas" from the Settlement Officers for one and the same plot of land. It is these people who quarrel over their rights, and such quarrels not unoften lead to murders. Hence it is clear that the



survey and settlement too, considered as a means of restoring peace and tranquillity, has so far proved a failure.

It seems that executive measures like the restricted issue of gun licenses and the undertaking of a survey and settlement or, as was at one time advocated by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the introduction into Backergunge of the system of administration which obtains in Burma, are and ever will be simply powerless to teach an ignorant and illiterate peasantry how to curb their anger and become peaceful and law-abiding subjects. There is only one way to deal with and remove the evil, namely, a spread of education among the lower classes of the population, and it behoves Government to make satisfactory arrangements for the education of such classes in Backergunge. It is a well-known fact that there are fewer murders in Bhola than in any other subdivision of this district, because the Musalman population in that subdivision are, in point of education and morals, superior to their co-religionists in other parts of Barisal. This is mainly due to the teaching and preaching of the revered Maulana Saheb.

If it is the object of Government to rid Backergunge of murder and promote the welfare of its people, the only way in which to gain that object is to give them a good religious and secular education.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Jan 26th, 1903.

13. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 26th January says that

The Midnapore police.

the case of the bogus income-tax assessor of Barua in the Midnapore district, who publicly cheated illiterate shopkeepers and agriculturists in a place only a couple of miles from Midnapore town, clearly shows that the Midnapore police is totally inefficient and devoid of all sense of duty. The police knew nothing of this swindling business. But what were the village chaukidars doing? Do they come to the police station simply to give information of births and deaths? If the police had been mindful of its duty, the bogus assessor could not have carried on his business for any length of time. The police in this country does not possess the least sense of duty or responsibility. All that it possesses is a strong desire to oppress and the idea that it exists only to overawe the people.

MEDINI BANDHAV.

14. The same paper heard from a friend that as one day the latter was

A complaint against the Midnapore Police.

going to the Dispensary of Babu Baikuntha Nath Mukherji in Midnapore town, he came across a covered carriage without driver or syce on the Bara Bazar road and a boy standing near it. On enquiry he learnt that the occupants of the carriage were some female members of the family of Babu Siv Lakshan Bhakat of Colonelgola, and that on their way to the river to bathe, the coachman was arrested and taken away by the police on a warrant, and that the boy, who was one of the occupants of the carriage, had alighted and was waiting there to send word to Siv Babu through the favour of some acquaintance he might chance to meet. A gentleman who had witnessed the arrest of the coachman had told the police to send a constable with the carriage and to have the coachman arrested after he had driven back to Siv Babu's house. But the police did not heed his advice.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

PALLIVASI,  
Jan. 21st, 1903.

15. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 21st January says that the pleaders of

Bad feeling between the Magistrates and pleaders of Burdwan.

Burdwan town recently held a meeting for the purpose of petitioning the Lieutenant-Governor and the High Court against the practice followed by Mr. Foley, the District Magistrate, of hearing cases in his private chamber, and the scant courtesy which they and the local mukhtears receive at his hands. The meeting requested those pleaders and mukhtears who had been discourteously treated by Mr. Foley, to make their cases known to it within a week, and resolved that so long as their grievances were not removed no pleaders should appear in Mr. Foley's Court.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 22nd, 1903.

16. Referring to the Malda lady-doctor's case, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta]

The Malda lady-doctor's case.

of the 22nd January says that two able Barristers, Messrs. P. L. Roy and S. R. Das, have been engaged by the accused, Madan Gopal, who is a rich zamindar, to defend him in the Malda Sessions Court. The plaintiff is not so rich as to be able to engage



high class barristers. As her case is being conducted at the Government's expense, Government is requested to engage such able lawyers on the side of the prosecution as will be able to maintain their ground against Messrs. P. L. Roy and S. R. Das.

17. One Babu Lok Nath Banerji, writing in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd January from Sehakhala, in the Serampore subdivision of the Hooghly district, says that he is a poor resident of the place, earning his livelihood by service, and that he never possessed any lakhiraj land. In April last a certificate was filed against him in the Hooghly Road-Cess Office for arrears of road-cess, and a man came to attach his poor dwelling-house, took down its boundaries, and went away. The correspondent went to Hooghly and submitted a petition with the help of a mukhtear, stating his case. He was told to attend on the 17th May with his witnesses. On that date the Deputy Collector, after examining and cross-examining the correspondent and his witnesses on oath, exempted him from liability to pay road-cess. But the peshkar and other amla asked him if it was his case that had been referred to in the *Hitavadi* newspaper. The correspondent replied in the affirmative and some time later he received a post-card from the Hooghly Road-Cess Department again demanding from him Rs. 4-8-9 as road-cess for the June instalment. As the correspondent lives away from home, he is afraid lest his house should be attached in his absence.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 23rd, 1903.

The land for which road-cess has been demanded from him belongs to Asutosh Chatterji, Uma Charan Vidyasagar, and others, residents of Desmukha.

The Editor asks if scandals like this will never cease.

(d)—Education.

18. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd January says that when four years ago Mr. Tata proposed to make a donation of 30 lakhs of rupees for establishing a science school in this country, even the Anglo-Indian Press admitted the reasonableness of his proposal, and the officials themselves praised it and Mr. Tata's liberality. This led many people to think that Government would do everything in its power to further Mr. Tata's scheme. But all expectation of Government help has been disappointed. Although Lord Curzon, who had then first arrived in India, verbally approved of the scheme and expressed his sympathy with it, he did not at the same time fail to view it with some displeasure.

HITAVADI,  
Jan. 23rd, 1903.

Government's attitude towards Mr. Tata's scheme.

Mr. Tata's object in proposing the donation was to help to make the scientific education imparted in the Indian Universities complete. He accordingly asked the Bombay Government to convert the Bombay University into a model teaching University with the funds which he would place at its disposal. But that Government did not see its way to accept his offer. He then asked the help of the Government of India to establish a research University for post-graduate education in India. But in this also he failed. He then sought Professor Ramsay's advice, and that *savant* advised him to change the name of the proposed institution from the high-sounding title of a University to that of an Institute. Mr. Tata accordingly proposed to establish a research institute in Bangalore. He has been able to secure for such an institute an annual income of three lakhs of rupees; but half a lakh more is still wanted, and Mr. Tata hoped to get this small annual subsidy from the Government. But Government disappointed him even in this. As for the nobility of the country they are prepared to spend vast amounts in purchasing titles, but they consider it shameful to loosen their purse-strings for such a work of public utility. The result has been that owing partly to the indifference of the Government arising from its solicitude for the welfare of the British manufacturer, and partly to the indifference of the nobility of the country, Mr. Tata has had to make his scheme less and less ambitious till he has had to give up altogether the idea of engaging graduates of Indian Universities in research work in his institute, has also had to again change the name of the institute and make it simply an institute of science,



and has been obliged to consider whether he should locate it in Bangalore or (to make it less expensive) at Rurki.

The English Government was never before so solicitous to make a profession of liberality and sympathy in carrying on the administration of India as it is just now, and Lord Curzon prided himself upon this at the Delhi Darbar only the other day. Is Government's attitude towards Mr. Tata's scheme expressive of liberality and sympathy?

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Jan. 26th, 1902.

19. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 26th January strongly condemns the proposal to devote the donation of

The proposed hostel for the  
Midnapore College.

thirty thousand rupees promised by the Raj Kumar of Mahisadal to the erection of a hostel for the students of the Midnapore College. There is no necessity for a students' hostel in Midnapore town, because most of the students now live with their guardians and will not consent, in consequence of the additional expense that will have to be incurred, to go to live in a hostel. Besides, the writer is not willing to admit that living in a hostel is good for a school boy. No one has ever heard of any hostel in the whole province, not excepting the model hostels in Calcutta, well spoken of. A hostel may be thought needful in Midnapore town for mufassal students; but as their number is small, nothing like thirty thousand rupees will be required to construct a hostel exclusively for their use.

The donation will be better spent if it is utilised in providing the Midnapore College with a good science laboratory, of which it stands very much in need.

PRATIVASI,  
Jan. 26th, 1903.

20. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th January says that three additional

Additional professors in the  
Sanskrit College, Calcutta.

professors to teach *Darsan*, *Smriti* and *Kavya*, will be appointed in the Calcutta Sanskrit College. Any one who knows anything about the college knows that even if the present professorial staff be reduced by two professors its work will not suffer. Why, then, this addition to the staff? However that may be, it is hoped that the appointments will be made with proper care. When Mahamahopadhyaya Chandra Kanta Tarkalankar retired, it was advertised that his successor would be appointed after a proper examination, and there were worthy candidates also. But at length a man was suddenly appointed without any examination at all. It is hoped that no such thing will occur this time.

PRATIVASI,

21. The same paper contains the following in English:—

The Law Lecturership of the  
Muir Central College.

With the European official out here, "reward merit" is a copy book maxim that might serve as a good text for a Viceregal speech, but should not have any other use. We are daily treated to these high-sounding principles, and as often pained to see them dodged somehow or other. Here is a case in point. The law lecturership of the Muir Central College, Allahabad, has been disposed of in supersession of the just claim of Satis Chandra Banerjee, M.A., LL.D. It is given to very few men to be able to possess Satis Chandra's attainments, and how could the claim of such a man be overlooked with a clear conscience? How could men connected with the administration of liberal education be a party to such a jobbery? Our contemporary of the *Lucknow Advocate* has tried to let us into the secret of the affair, but the regard which we have all along cherished for Mr. Justice Knox makes us loth to believe that his Lordship could have any bias against Mr. Banerjee. He is perhaps too good-hearted to be proof against the supplications of one whose meagre income badly requires supplementing

(c)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.  
Jan. 21st, 1903.

22. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the

Sale of adulterated ghee in  
Calcutta.

21st January says that the Calcutta market is filled with adulterated ghee. The Municipal Food Inspectors have proved their inability to prevent the crime. Detectives should be employed for the purpose.



23. The same paper says that since the separation of Kamarhati from the Barahanagar Municipality in the 24-Parganas district and the creation of a new Municipality there, the Kamarhati people have been deprived of the privilege of electing Municipal Commissioners. Commissioners for the Kamarhati Municipality are now appointed by the Government, and are not elected by the rate-payers. It is not known for what fault of the rate-payers they have been deprived of the privilege of election.

24. Referring to the grant of Rs. 21,000 by the Calcutta Municipality for illumination purposes, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January asks under what law has the money been voted? It is neither right nor equitable to make a show of opulence at other people's expense. The festivities should have been designed on the scale permitted by the amount of subscriptions collected. Had not the new Municipal Act deprived the rate-payers of all power, neither the Chairman nor the obsequious Commissioners could have found it possible to waste Rs. 21,000 of their money.

25. In continuation of what was written in a previous issue on the latrine-tax in the Bankura Municipality (see Report on Native Papers of the 17th January 1903, paragraph 13) the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd January says:—

We give below the tables of assessments prepared by the Municipal Chairman and the Sub-Committee, respectively, along with the existing assessments:—

EXISTING ASSESSMENTS.			TABLE PREPARED BY THE CHAIRMAN.			TABLE PREPARED BY THE SUB-COMMITTEE.		
Annual rent of a house.		Annual tax to be paid.	Annual rent of a house.		Annual tax to be paid.	Annual rent of a house.		Annual tax to be paid.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1 to 30	3		1 to 24	3		1 to 30	3	
31 to 48	6		25 to 30	4½		31 to 60	4½	
49 to 72	7½		31 to 48	6		61 to 90	6	
73 to 100	9		49 to 72	7½		91 to 120	8	
101 to 150	12		73 to 100	9		121 to 150	10	
151 to 200	15		101 to 150	11		151 to 200	13	
201 to 250	18		151 to 200	13		201 to 250	16	
251 to 300	21		201 to 250	15		251 to 300	19	
301 to 400	24		251 to 300	17		301 to 400	22	
401 upwards	36		301 to 400	19		401 to 500	26	
			401 upwards	21		501 to 600	30	
						601 upwards	36	

In his table the Chairman has laid on the shoulders of the poor the weight which he has taken off those of the rich. We, however, fully approve the Sub-Committee's table. But we suggest the simple rule of assessing annas 12 on every Rs. 15 above Rs. 30, if the Municipality can afford to follow it. The following is a table prepared in accordance with this rule:—

Annual rent.		Annual tax.
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1 to 15	...	1½
16 to 30	...	3
31 to 45	...	3½
46 to 60	...	4½
61 to 75	...	5½
76 to 90	...	6
91 to 105	...	6½
106 to 120	...	7½
121 to 135	...	8½
136 to 150	...	9
&c.	&c.	&c.
&c.	&c.	&c.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRATAP-  
ANANDA-BASAR,  
PATRIKA,  
Jan. 21st, 1903.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 22nd, 1903.

BANKURA  
DARPAN,  
Jan. 23rd, 1903.



BANKURA  
DARPAH,  
Jan. 23rd, 1903.

26. The same paper says that all the sweetmeat shops in Bankura town are situate over open drains covered with planks of wood. Flies carry all sorts of contamination from the drains to the sweets. The Municipal

Chairman had it proclaimed by beat of drum that no one should keep sweetmeat shops over drains, but still the shops remain as before.

BASUMATI,  
Jan. 24th, 1903.

27. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 24th January has been surprised to learn that no medical arrangements are made for the large number of pilgrims who every year visit the Gangasagar *mela*, either at the place of

the *mela* or on board the steamers conveying the pilgrims. The proprietor of this paper visited the *mela* this year, and when returning found several passengers on board the steamer in which he was travelling attacked with cholera and not receiving a drop of medicine. Five of them died and their bodies were thrown into the river. The Government should see that this state of things is remedied in future.

BASIRHAT  
SUHRID  
Jan. 28th, 1903.

28. A correspondent of the *Basirhat Suhrid* [Basirhat] of the 28th January complains of the bad condition of the roads and drains in the Baduria Municipality in the 24-Parganas district and of the hardship which

is caused to the rate-payers by the action of the Municipality in issuing warrants of distress for recovery of arrears without first serving notices of demand. The Municipality is also wasting much public money by instituting unnecessary law-suits against rate-payers.

At the last sale of pounds, there was a Rs. 90 bid for the pound in the Rudrapur ward, but the Commissioner of the ward leased it to a *protégé* of his at Rs. 40 only. The attention of the Subdivisional Officer has been drawn to this, but he has up to the present done nothing in the matter. An attempt is being probably made to hush it up.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Dec. 22nd, 1903.

29. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 22nd December contains the following account of the tour of inspection recently made by Mr. Carstairs, the Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, and Mr. Luson, the District Magistrate of Midnapore, through Messrs. Watson and Company's zamindari in that district, and of the complaints made to them by the people against the Company's oppressions and against the *chaukidari* tax:—

On the morning of the 9th December last the worthy officials visited the Chandra village within the Bahadurpur pargana. Hundreds of raiyats and *chaukidars* were awaiting their arrival at the village. The tenants of the powerful Company related to the inspecting officials the miserable condition to which the various oppressions of their zamindars have reduced them. Our popular and noble minded District Magistrate brought to Mr. Carstairs' notice the *zulum* of the Company's peons called *nagdis*, who have to be paid by the tenants on whom they are quartered, and the cruel treatment which the tenants receive at the hands of the Company's officers.

*The nagdi's fee.*—Large amounts of money are realised by the Company as *nagdi* fees. A certain tenant has to pay an annual rent of Rs. 105. The company has realised from him *nagdi* fees amounting to Rs. 120.

*Rent-suits for every kist.*—The inspecting officials fully realised how those tenants who happen to incur the displeasure of the Company's servants are ruined by the latter by the institution of rent-suits for every *kist*.

*How nagdis and pound-ijardars join hands in the work of oppression.*—The *nagdi* fee varies from 4 annas to 8 annas per day. If the poor man on whom he is quartered does not or cannot pay the fee, he and his females are abused, and his rickety hut shakes before the *nagdi's lathi*. The poor man is then dragged to the Company's *cutcherry*, where he is subjected to all sorts of oppression. If he hides himself in fear, his cattle and domestic utensils are carried to the pound. The pound *ijardar* is, in almost every case, the Company's man. If the cattle and the utensils remain in the pound for some days they are put up to sale. The fugitive tenant is therefore compelled to



make enquiries in the pound, but as soon as he appears the Company's *nagdis* pounce upon him and carry him to the *cutcherry*.

Mr. Samman, late District Collector of Midnapore, transferred all *jaigir* lands in the district to zamindars and established the system of engaging paid-chaukidars under Act VI of 1870 of the Bengal Council. But the deeds relating to the transfer of *jaigir* lands under the Midnapore thana have not yet been delivered to the zamindars. By *putni* contract which Messrs. Watson and Company have entered into with Raja Narendralal Khan Bahadur, the European zamindars have acquired the right to the possession of many *jaigir* lands held by chaukidars in return for the chaukidari work formerly done by them. Much land in the Chandra and the surrounding villages under the Midnapore thana has thus fallen into the hands of the Company. Although they have not yet received the deeds of transfer for these lands, the Company have issued registered notices to the chaukidars, asking them to enter into fresh contracts with them on payment of *salamis* at the rate of Rs. 20 or Rs. 25, and at the annual rent of Rs. 2 per bigha. But these paik chaukidars are too poor to pay even Rs. 10 at a time. They have petitioned the Commissioner and the District Magistrate to keep them in possession of their lands without requiring them to pay *salamis*. These lands, reclaimed by their forefathers, were formerly full of jungle, and therefore received the name *jangalmahal*. Paik chaukidars held them on payment of a kind of rent called *peskhas*. The law courts also used to grant decrees for arrears of *peskhas*. Mr. Lusson therefore says that the paik chaukidars have acquired a right to these lands under the Bengal Tenancy Act. But neither the zamindars nor their putnidars admit this. As soon as they received the deeds of transfer they began to dispossess paik chaukidars, who found a great friend in Mr. Lusson. Mr. Lusson said that they could not be dispossessed. Against this Babu Rakhal Das Mukherji of Sultangacha and other zamindars moved the High Court. But the High Court also could not sanction the forcible dispossession of the paik chaukidars. The zamindars had recourse to the law courts in order to get *khas* possession of the lands. How long is it possible for the poor and weak paik chaukidars to maintain their ground against the powerful zamindars? They now look to Mr. Lusson for the redress of their grievance. They have submitted many petitions in this matter.

On the 10th December Messrs. Carstairs and Lusson visited Pirasol village, where they received many petitions from raiyats and paik chaukidars and heard many tales of oppression.

On the following day they visited the Gohaltor village under the Garbeta thana. Here they saw unmistakable proofs of oppression. The poor Sonthal Kumris, who live in the jungles in a barbarous state, gathered round the sahebs and related how the European Company did not spare even them. It was a touching sight to see the half-naked wanderers in the woods relating to the white officials their tales of oppression with a degree of simplicity found only among wild men. The Sonthal Kumris live on the *kadu* grass grown in the woods, but they never paid any tax for it. But now the Company has taxed the *kadu*-growing land. If they fail to pay the tax their frail huts, made with sticks and leaves, are demolished by the Company's *nagdis*. Formerly the Sonthal Kumris used to take firewood from the jungles, but the Company has prohibited this. Their kid, sheep, and poultry are taken away, but no price is paid for them. If one of their cows dies, the Company's *nagdis* snatch away its skin. Again, these poor Sonthal Kumris, who have nothing to guard against thieves, are obliged to pay the chaukidari tax. If they fail to pay it, everything they possess is carried away by the panchayet. The Commissioner and the Magistrate told them to make applications on which they would give orders from Midnapore. Whereon they said with child-like simplicity, "You will not do that; you will forget everything in Midnapore?" They also received petitions from paik chaukidars and other people.

The *sahibs* then visited Ramgarh. On being asked, the people, who had long been waiting for them, said that the paddy grown on high lands had been all scorched by the heat of the sun; that there was less import than export of paddy; that 60 or 70 per cent. of the local people had gone to distant places in search of work; and that the zamindars had only surveyed the local *jaigir* lands. Some of the raiyats petitioned the Commissioner for exemption from the



chaukidari tax. The Commissioner sent the petition to the District Magistrate, who made a note on it to the effect that it would be considered in consultation with the sub-inspectors and the panchayet of the Binpur thana. The sahebs then had a long interview with the Raja of Ramgarh, who also pleaded for a general exemption from the chaukidari tax.

The inspecting officers then went to Garbeta, where they were met by the Joint-Magistrate of Bankura. The three officials first went to Amlagurha, Watson and Company's *cutchery*. This brought despair and anguish to the hearts of the large number of people who were waiting for them, for it was their bitter experience that the Amlagurha *cutchery* possessed a charm by which it could change the minds of the white man visiting it. But when in the evening the *sahebs* returned from the *cutchery*, and it became known that they had gone there to inspect the Company's books, the people were re-assured. The Company's servants told the people not to appear before the *sahebs* under pain of incurring the serious displeasure of the Company. This prevented not a few people from appearing before them. On the next morning the Commissioner and the Magistrate heard some respectable people and received petitions from them. They told almost the same story. The following is an example:—One man possessed an old *pauchak maurasi mukarrari* tenure. The *saheb* Company wanted to enhance its rent, but failed to do so by fair and lawful means. It then began to institute rent suits against him for every *kist*. He sent his rent by money-order: the Company refused to take it. He then began to deposit the rent in court, but if, by mistake, there happened to be an arrear of an anna or two a rent suit followed. Besides all this his cattle would be dragged to the pound, his lands would not be supplied with water for irrigation, and many other means of oppression would be adopted against him. Unable to bear the oppression any longer he submits all his documents and the money-order receipts to the *saheb* officials and craves their protection.

One of the people presented a paper which showed how he had been persecuted by the Company, because on a previous occasion he had complained against the Company to the divisional Commissioner then on a visit to Garbeta.

The *paik* chaukidars said that many of their *jaigir* lands have been transferred by the Company to other people at the rate of Rs. 2 per bigha. Again, those who held *jaigir* lands from *paik* chaukidars, or cultivated such lands in their behalf and annually paid the *paik* chaukidars portions of the paddy grown on them, have been ordered by the Company not to give them paddy. This has caused great distress among the *paik* chaukidars. The inspecting officials received innumerable petitions of this sort. In this connection a strange story was told about the late sub-inspector of the Garbeta thana, Babu Umes Chandra Banerji, and the local hospital assistant, Dr. Mahes Chandra Sen. Before the transfer of *jaigir* lands to zamindars, an order was issued to the effect that if any *paik* chaukidar should be dismissed for any fault of his, no new man should be appointed in his place and his *jaigir* lands should be confiscated by the Government, and that so long these lands were not transferred to a zamindar, Government should resettle them with other persons and collect their rents. The *jaigir* lands of those chaukidars under the Garbeta thana who were dismissed after the issue of this order were resettled by the sub-inspector on behalf of the Government with the hospital assistant. The *paik* chaukidars now say that the sub-inspector dismissed them because he wanted to give the *jaigir* lands to the doctor. But these lands were then taken by the doctor in his brother-in-law Kulada Charan Basu's *benami*. The Company putnidars also afterwards settled them with him. But the *paik* chaukidars said that they never gave the doctor possession of those lands, although the sub-inspector contrived to get some paddy from some of them. There were many complaints against the doctor. Petitions embodying them were submitted.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Dec. 29th, 1902

30. In continuation of the last article the *Medini Bandhav* of the 29th December writes:—

Zamindar and tenant in the  
Midnapore district.

On the 16th December last the Commissioner and the Magistrate arrived at Chandrakona. The Chandrakona thana is composed of the Chandrakona subdivision and a part of



the Bagri. The following are two of the instances brought to the notice of the officials of oppressive realisation of extra money by the European Company from its tenants in this part:—(1) The Company's manager first realised Rs. 40 from one Rangalal Hazra, an inhabitant of Japur village, as license-money for selling Syam Jana's *panchan* (a medical decoction). A month after the manager called Rangalal and said that another man had agreed to pay Rs. 100 annually for permission to sell the *panchan*, and that he also must pay Rs. 100. On Rangalal's refusing to pay such a large sum he was forced to sign a bond for Rs. 100 in favour of the Company. We have learnt from a trustworthy source that since Rangalal submitted this petition to the inspecting officials, four *nagdis* have been stationed in his house for realising the money, and that they are daily realising Rs. 4 from him as their fee. (2) The Company has taken Rs. 1,800 from a man and granted him a monopoly of the use of machines for extracting juice from the sugarcane within the Company's zamindari. This has caused great hardship to the local people, many of whom have such machines of their own.

Under section 48 of Act VI of 1870 of the Bengal Council, service lands can be transferred to zamindars only; and under section 1 of the same Act a zamindar is he who pays revenue to the Government and whose name is registered in the Collector's books. Messrs. Watson and Company are not zamindars, because the name of the Company is not registered in the Collector's books. In spite of this Mr. Samman, late District Magistrate of Midnapore, transferred the service lands within the Chandrakona subdivision to the Company. Mr. Luson is said to have protested against this and ordered the Company's general manager to return the transfer deed to him. On the strength of this deed the Company are resettling the service lands for large *salamis* and at rents at the rate of Rs. 2 per bigha.

The officials next visited Kespur, which is the seat of many zamindars and of Raja Narendralal Khan. But *zulm* against paik chaukidars exists here as at other places. The local Bagh family has taken many service lands from the European Company, and are dispossessing paik chaukidars. Raja Narendralal Khan also is said to have done the same in many cases. Petitions embodying these complaints were also submitted.

The Commissioner and the Magistrate then went to the Salbani thana. It is with the tenants within the jurisdiction of this thana that the European Company has been waging a long legal warfare on the question of enhancement of rent.

31. The *Bikas* [Barisal] of the 25th January says that it has received a very serious complaint against a Settlement Officer of Backergunge who holds a high position. The complaint will be published after the writer has satisfied himself of its truth. Has not Mr. Bell heard anything yet?

BIKAS,  
Jan. 25th, 1903.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

32. A correspondent named Jogendra Nath Laha writes to the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 22nd January that on the night of the 17th January last an unusually large number of passengers, mostly returning from the Ganga Sagar *mela*, accumulated in the Bengal-Nagpur railway station in Howrah. The distress suffered by the passengers, especially by the women and children, was indescribable. When the train came alongside the platform a terrible rush ensued. Within a few minutes the carriages became loaded with passengers. But not even a third part of the entire number found room in the train. When the train was about to start a police servant ran from carriage to carriage crying, "Is there any one named Bodhoo in this carriage? His child has died." Behind the police servant an up-country woman was running frantically. The train steamed off. But the great majority of the intending passengers were left behind. Many people did not even know that the train had come and gone away. The valiant police servants then began to belabour the poor people with their sticks and dispersed them, among whom was a large number of ordinary as well as respectable women. At a short distance a number of respectable women were sitting in the cold with a child with them. There was bewilderment in their

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 22nd, 1903.



eyes. They knew not what to do. At another place the up-country woman was bitterly bewailing the dead child on her lap. The child had been killed in the rush.

SANJIVANI,  
Jan. 22nd, 1903.

33. A correspondent of the same paper says that the road which passes through *Khalarh* village in the Howrah district belonged, before its transfer to the District Board, to the people through whose lands it passed. These people excavated boundary ditches separating their lands from the road. These ditches served the double purpose of draining off the superfluous water of the adjoining villages and supplying clay for the repair of the road. But in broadening the road the subdivisional overseer, Babu Nagendra Nath Chatterji, has filled them up, and now he claims them as the District Board's property. On account of the filling up of the ditches the superfluous water of the villages runs into the tanks and fouls their water. But the overseer paid no heed to this, and disregarded the request of the villagers to provide passages for the escape of water. In the matter of boundaries village headmen are always regarded as authorities. Their opinion should therefore be taken before deciding to whom the ditches belong. It is hoped that the District Magistrate will do justice in the matter.

PRATIVASI,  
Jan. 26th, 1903.

34. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th January says that tram-car accidents are occurring almost every day in Calcutta. The other day Maharaja Jotindra Mohan Tagore's carriage collided with a car, and the Maharaja had a narrow escape. On the 25th January last a woman was run over by a car and killed in Cornwallis Street. These accidents occur through the fault of tram-car drivers.

(h)--General.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Jan. 19th, 1903.

35. Referring to the rumoured transfer of the Chittagong division to Assam, the *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 19th January fails to see what has induced Lord Curzon to take a step which Lord Elgin considered unnecessary and inadvisable. It is not known whether the present Viceroy has read the opinions and representations which were given and submitted against the proposed transfer by the High Court, the Board of Revenue, the British Indian Association and other public bodies, in Lord Elgin's time. But it is strange that a step which Lord Elgin refrained from taking, after a consideration of the reasons urged against it by the public, is about to be taken by a successor of his without the public being given an opportunity of discussing it or even of knowing what is going to take place. The secret manner in which Government is going to effect this transfer cannot but be discreditable to a civilised and enlightened Government. There is yet three months' time before the rumoured transfer, and will not Lord Curzon allow those who will be most affected by it to say in the meantime what they have got to say? It is to be hoped that Lord Curzon will reconsider his decision, and having gone through the old literature on the subject will give up his intention. To do harm to the millions of residents of a division and wound their feelings for the sake of a little administrative convenience will not certainly be a right thing to do.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Jan. 23rd, 1903.

36. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 23rd January says that a branch post office should be established in the Muradia village under the Patuakhali Post Office in the Backergunge district. The present system of distributing letters, &c., in the Muradia village causes great inconvenience to the villagers. Moreover, two or three rivers separate the village from Patuakhali. The establishment of a branch post office in Muradia will not necessitate the appointment of a new runner, because the village is situate on the river by which the *dhak* between Patuakhali and Bauphal passes.

BASUMATI,  
Jan. 24th, 1903.

37. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 24th January regrets that in spite of the presence of the Deputy Magistrate of Diamond Harbour with a body of police at the late Gangasagar *melá*, the pilgrims had to suffer many inconveniences. The Deputy Magistrate ought to have remembered that his duty was as much to see to the convenience of the pilgrims as to maintain peace



and order. In future Government should depute a more competent officer to the *meld*.

38. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 25th January complains of the inconvenience which has been caused to the residents of Piyakati in the Faridpur district in consequence of the removal of the Arikati Post Office from its original site to the western extremity of Arikati, and says that the inclusion of Piyakati within the jurisdiction of the Dhankati Post Office, within which it was formerly included, will prove a boon to its residents.

A postal complaint.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Jan. 25th, 1903.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

39. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 22nd January says:—

The proposed Chittagong Port Bill.

Government is going to introduce in the next session of the Bengal Council a Bill to empower the Commissioners of the Port of Chittagong to

impose river dues on goods entering and leaving the Port. When the late survey, marked as it was by innumerable mistakes and blunders, was being made in Chittagong an influential resident of the district told the Settlement officer that the survey was a complete failure because one man's land had been given to another, that the survey papers being wrong, people would find themselves involved in litigation and that Government, too, whose duty it was to get the rights of the tenants fixed and determined, would be confronted with great difficulty and obliged in the end to regret and repudiate the results of the survey operations. In reply the officer said: "In that case the Legislature will come forward to our rescue." Nobody, of course, knows whether or no, he had held any consultation with the Legislature on the subject; but, as a matter of fact, the Survey officers in this instance did not find themselves in trouble. It was enacted by Act III (B.C.) of 1898 that no objections made against any survey after six months from the date of the final publication of the *khatian* would be entertained. As the Act was passed full one year after the final publication of that record in Chittagong, people were prevented from making any objections against the survey.

Now, as regards the proposed Bill, it should be noted that the Port authorities have for some years past been trying to levy an impost on all boats from the interior of the district entering and leaving the port. That they have not so long gained their object is because many successive experienced Divisional Commissioners have repeatedly opposed their wish, and also because it has been held in a judgment of the High Court that any such claim on their part is not supported by the existing law. That is why the Legislature now finds it necessary to come to the rescue of the Port authorities.

The people of Chittagong are therefore perfectly helpless. They can at the best appeal to the law, but when Government finds that the law is favourable to their claims and must be amended if it is to serve its purpose, amended it must be.

JYOTI,  
Jan. 22nd, 1903.

### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

40. The *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 19th January observes that the Delhi Darbar has proved only an idle and inopportune pageant and served no useful purpose whatever. It says:—

The Delhi Darbar.

MEDINI BANDHAV,  
Jan. 19th, 1903.

Following an old and well-known local custom, people in East Bengal during the Durga Puja festival witness with great pleasure the performances of village clowns in the houses in which the Puja is celebrated. These clowns wear the most fantastic dress and turban made up of coloured shreds and patches, and sing and dance to the accompaniment of music. There is a story of a beggar who, dressed like a clown, made his appearance in a house where Durga Puja was being held, in the expectation of alms, and finding everybody present busy and the prospect of immediate success uncertain, placed his wallet on the ground and had a smoke. What was his astonishment when he discovered the very next moment that his wallet was gone? "My wallet, my wallet, where is my wallet?" the beggar began to shout. The shout was heard by the band and they instantly struck up the music answering to the



clown's dance. In vain did the beggar attempt to tell them by means of his gestures that he was no clown but the victim of a robbery, that he had lost his wallet. But his gesticulations were taken for those of a clown and his shrieks and shouts for a clown's singing, while the music grew louder and louder and drowned the beggar's loud and repeated protestations. He kept on shrieking and yelling, and the band, too, kept on playing.

Our condition has become very much like that of this beggar. Our wallet is gone; we are fast becoming destitute, hunger and disease have made our position agonising, we are being crushed under the burden of taxation, while our Government is holding a Darbar at Delhi to the music of the big drum, and there is nobody to listen to our cry that our "wallet" is gone.

SRI SRI VISHNU-  
PRIYA-O-  
ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
Jan. 21st, 1903.

41. Referring to the speech which was recently delivered by Mr. Bailey, Secretary to the Indian Leper Mission, in the Young Men's Christian Association Hall in Calcutta,

Leprosy and its cure.

on the subject of leprosy and leper asylums, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 21st January asks the Mission, if after the cure of lepers in its asylums, opportunities are afforded to them to return to their respective communities and relations. Leprosy is an incurable disease according to European medical science. But in India there still exists a generous friend and benefactor of the leper class in the person of Pandit Kriparam. He has succeeded in curing a number of lepers.

HINDU RANJIKA,  
Jan. 21st, 1903.

42. The *Hindu Ranjika* [Rajshahi] of the 21st January contains a Coronation poem giving expression to loyal sentiments and wishes for the Emperor's health, happiness and

A Coronation poem.

long life.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Jan. 23rd, 1903.

43. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 23rd January says what good has the Delhi Darbar done to the people of the country is the question which many are asking,

The Delhi Darbar.

but which the writer is unable to answer.

BASUMATI,  
Jan. 24th, 1903.

44. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 24th January has the following:—

The Darbar.

When the Viceroy honoured us with a visit at the Editors' Camp at Delhi, he told us that we should look upon the Darbar not in the light of a pageant but in the light of a most sacred ceremony. We have however failed to discover in the Darbar any features higher or better than those which belong to a pageant. In the Viceroy's speech itself, full as it is of high-sounding phrases, we have failed to discover utterances befitting a kind and beneficent ruler. How shall we then take the Darbar for anything else than a State pageant? What word of reassurance has the Viceroy spoken to the people? What is the boon with which he has blessed the Indians? Is not his speech quite as empty a thing as his Darbar?

There is no denying that the Viceroy's speech has awakened in the public mind no other feeling than that of despair. The style of his speech, the manner in which it was delivered, the very voice in which it was spoken, was admirable. But one may at the same time freely declare that there was no heart in all this; that it did not glow with any fervour, true sympathy, or tenderness; that it was after all only an empty flourish.

The Viceroy has besides said certain things in his speech that were better unsaid. His Excellency said:—"To the majority of these millions the King's Government has given freedom from invasion and anarchy; to the masses it dispenses mercy in the hour of suffering, and to all it endeavours to give equal justice, immunity from oppression, and the blessings of enlightenment and peace." Does the Viceroy know how many persons in how many places in India were oppressed and robbed of their all by bands of robbers on the night of the very day on which he spoke these boastful words at Delhi? However, large the blessings of peace and enlightenment we may have received, to those who are acquainted with the history of the sufferings of the people from scarcity of food and water and of the oppression suffered by the black at the hands of the white, this talk about the dispensation of mercy in the hour of suffering and about immunity from oppression will sound very strange indeed. There is no end to the violations of the pledges given in the Queen's Proclamation. For natives the avenues to employment in the public service are becoming narrower and narrower; the higher appointments in the public



service still remain closed to them; no one will venture to say that equal justice is dealt out to Europeans and natives; and the European Residents are dominating over the Native Princes quite as much as ever. When in the face of all this His Excellency declares, "To those of us who, like my colleagues and myself, are the direct instruments of His Majesty's Government, they [the words in the King's Message] suggest the spirit that should guide our conduct and infuse our administration," we find small consolation in his words. These are words fit only to delude a child, for we are feeling every day the effect of the policy followed by Lord Curzon and his colleagues. What else but an empty sound should we call also the policy of equality which Lord Curzon proclaimed in the Darbar? How much of equality was maintained at the Darbar itself? Did not the Indians understand at every step that they are poor, weak, insignificant creatures; that they had come there to dance like puppets at the Viceroy's bidding; that the English were the masters there, while they themselves were nothing but their humble servants; that they were equals of Englishmen in only Englishmen's proclamations. In this Darbar of Englishmen we have seen only what the English showed us, heard only what they told us. As a pageant it may obtain a lasting place in history, but as a serious political event it lives not and will never live. The thick and long array of troops, the electric illumination, the vast city of canvas, the artificial bowers, the gratification of the morbidly craving senses, the colossal display of political power, will perhaps always be fresh in our memory. But we shall never be able to understand what need there was of spending nearly a crore of rupees for this only, or what the political significance of this Darbar was. The Emperor of India, even if not proclaimed Emperor in the Darbar, would have been the Emperor of all India and the object of all India's veneration. It was not at all necessary to waste so much money to tell the Indians what they needed not to be told.

45. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 24th January has the following:—

BANGAVASI,  
Jan. 24th, 1903.

Petition on behalf of the descendants of the Moghul Emperors.

Delhi remains, but Akbar is no more, and the Delhi of Akbar witnessed Lord Curzon's Darbar. The Darbar reminded many of the present descendants of Akbar, and sympathy with those unfortunate men has led a Khoja merchant of Secunderabad to attempt to excite Lord Curzon's pity on their behalf. The petition which has been submitted to the Viceroy by this gentleman is really painful reading, and one can scarcely check one's tears in going through it. The present descendants of the Moghul Emperors number fifty, and the petitioner says that he saw one of them in a street of Hyderabad carrying a load of wood on his back, that another lives by mending clocks and watches, and a third by begging.

Will not Lord Curzon be kind to these men?

46. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 24th January has a cartoon containing a cow with some leaves in her mouth.

BHARAT MITRA,  
Jan. 24th, 1903.

A cartoon. The letterpress, which is in English, runs as follows:—

"Slaughter me not. Save and feed me. Some of the best breeds of mine are almost out of existence. Frequency of famine can be traced to lack of money to purchase seed-grains and plough cattle."

47. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 26th January says that the Campbell Hospital is the only public hospital in Calcutta where people suffering from infectious diseases can find shelter. But it is very badly managed, and the infectious disease wards require considerable improvement. Again, the blind, the lame, and the incapable people in Calcutta have not a place in which to hide their heads. The large sums of money which have been spent in the Coronation festivities and are going to be spent on the Woodburn Memorial could have been far more usefully spent in building asylums or improving the condition of the Campbell Hospital.

PRATIVASI,  
Jan. 26th, 1903.

How money raised for Coronation festivities in Calcutta, &c., could have been well spent.

48. The same paper learns from the *Indian Engineering* newspaper that the Viceroy will soon pay his attention to the construction of the Victoria Memorial Hall. Probably Sir William Emerson or his son will be brought to begin the work. At Delhi His Excellency advised the native princes to help Indian art and industry. Years ago Government said that native princes should follow its example by helping Indian art. Architecture is the mother of the fine arts in

PRATIVASI.

Victoria Memorial Hall.



every civilised country. But Government has so long done nothing to construct a model architectural work. It is hoped that Lord Curzon will follow Indian models in the construction of the Memorial Hall. Example is better than precept. It was with a deep sense of disappointment that the *Pioneer* said that the materials and the workmen for the Hall would all be foreign, only the money would be Indian.

## URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPKA,  
Jan. 10th, 1903.

49. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 10th January states that the sky was cloudy for some days, that there was fear of rainfall which has now been removed, and that the

The weather in Orissa. sky has become clear. The severity of the cold has a little abated, and the mango trees have begun to blossom.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Jan. 8th, 1903.

50. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 8th January is sorry to learn that cholera is raging virulently at Sobharampur

Cholera in the Balasore district. and Remuna in the Balasore district, where 13 men and women are reported to have died of the fell disease.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

Cattle-pox in the Balasore district.

51. The same paper states that cattle-pox is also doing great injury in the same district.

UTKALDIPKA,  
Jan. 10th, 1903.

52. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 10th January sympathises with the

The Nawab of Arcot's death mourned.

Muhammadan community and mourns the death at Delhi of the Nawab of Arcot, whom the said community looked upon with great respect.

UTKALDIPKA.

53. The same paper thanks Mr. and Mrs. Gupta for the excellent

A garden party at Mr. K. G. Gupta's residence.

manner in which they held in honour of the Coronation a garden party at their house at Lalbag on the 2nd of January last that gave

satisfaction and pleasure to all the assembled guests, among whom were to be seen several European ladies and gentlemen, as also the leading members of the Uriya nobility and gentry. The writer is of opinion that such amusements will go a great way to make tighter the bonds of friendship and sympathy between Englishmen and Indians.

UTKALDIPKA.

54. Referring to the bestowal of titles in the Cuttack Coronation Darbar,

The distribution of honours in the Cuttack Coronation Darbar.

the same paper is satisfied that the title of Maharaja has been conferred on the Raja of Mohar-bhanj, but is of opinion that the certificates of

honour should not have been given to the title-holders. Some of those certificates might with great advantage have been given to some of the sessions court assessors and members of the village panchayats.

UTKALDIPKA.

55. In noticing the Cuttack Darbar and other Coronation festivities in

Unpleasant circumstances in connection with the Cuttack Coronation Darbar and festivities.

that town, the same paper alludes to a few unpleasant circumstances that might with a little foresight have been easily avoided. During the presentation of the Chiefs to the presiding officer

in the Cuttack Darbar their names were called aloud in order. This might have been avoided, as it was neither liked by the audience nor by the Chiefs themselves. The school-boys were invited to a feast of sweets by beat of drum, which was equally disgusting. The Coronation Committee had resolved to discountenance the dancing girls by all means, and yet they paid large sums of money to some of the dancing girls of Calcutta, who were brought down all the way to Cuttack to dance in the Darbar pandal under the pseudonym of theatrical personages. This has produced great heart-burning among the local dancing girls, who might have been patronised at a considerably less cost.

UTKALDIPKA.

56. In giving an account of the agricultural and industrial exhibition

Mr. K. G. Gupta's Cuttack Exhibition speech.

held at Cuttack in honour of the Coronation, the same paper publishes *in extenso* the opening speech of Mr. K. G. Gupta, who was of opinion "that

there is no lack of skill and that the "hand hath not lost its cunning" in Orissa. He considered that the future was full of promise, as a gradual and perceptible improvement in the quality and number of exhibits was visible from year to year. He had words of praise for the discouraged ivory-workers of Nayagar and Dhenkanal, the neglected blacksmiths of Talcher, and the



impoverished weavers of Tigiria and Baramba. He concluded his address by drawing the attention of the audience to the words of admonition which the Viceroy addressed to the aristocratic and cultured classes of the country assembled at the Delhi Exhibition, and by exhorting them to follow the example of the venerable Chief of Khandpara, who has, both by example and precept, done much to preserve the indigenous arts from ruin.

57. The same paper passes high encomiums on the Cuttack Coronation Committee, whose management of the Coronation festivities was on the whole satisfactory, and the Cuttack Exhibition Committee, that had to work

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Jan. 10th, 1903.

The services of the Cuttack Coronation Committee.

under great disadvantage. That the general public could not see the exhibits on the second and third days after the exhibition was declared open and that they were required to pay a fee of two annas each on the third day are matters that, though very disappointing in their nature, may be passed over in silence.

58. The feeding of the poor in the Cuttack Municipal Park by Rai Hariballabh Bose Bahadur is well spoken of. The poor of Kendrapara had a good treat in the premises of the Baldev temple, where Babu Brajasunder

UTKALDIPIKA.

The feeding of the poor in Orissa.

Mardaraj and Mr. Davidson distinguished themselves by their zeal and loyalty. Babu Kunja Bihari Rai and his friends were no less conspicuous at Akhuapada, where the festivities were graced by the presence of the Superintending Engineer, Orissa Division. Munshi Mirza Rahmat Ali Beg, the Secretary of the Tendacora School, and his friends sustained the reputation of that place for loyalty by their opportune and valuable services. Rai Kailash Chandra Bahadur and his sons of Dehurda in Balasore distributed alms and clothes to the poor of that place. Babu Radhanath Samanta of Binjharpur entertained the people of that place with fireworks. The Mahanta of Kethpada entertained his neighbours with theatrical performances. Babu Hem Chandra Bose of Kuapal School and the sub-postmaster of the Kuapal Post Office worked together in illuminating the place. Babu Gopal Chandra Das and his friends distinguished themselves by their loyal services at Jhankar, where the temples of Sarada and Dadhibaman were brilliantly illuminated and the audience treated with sacred music and *kirtan*.

59. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 8th January give a short account of the Coronation festivities at Balasore, and states that their success was mainly due to the untiring exertions and loyal services of Babus Asutosh Dutta and Amirta Sikhar Mukerjee, Deputy Magistrates of Balasore.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Jan. 8th, 1903.

60. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 17th January is sorry to learn that a bad type of fever in Puri town.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Jan. 17th, 1903.

61. The Dehurda correspondent of the *Uriya* and *Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 14th January states that cholera is prevalent in that part of the Balasore district, and that unless the District Magistrate takes good care of the drinking water, which is running short and is being contaminated, there is no hope for the people of that part in the future.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Jan. 14th, 1903.

62. The same paper supports the petition of Raja Baikuntha Nath De Bahadur of Balasore to the Viceroy, praying for the amalgamation of Orissa proper, Ganjam and Sambalpur, i.e., all the Uriya-speaking districts, under one administration. The writer is of opinion that this administrative step is essential to the national development of the Uriya race.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD.

63. Referring to the appointment of the Plague Commission, the same paper observes that the Indian public are already tired of Commissions, and it is not advisable to multiply their number.

URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,

The Malkowal Plague Disaster Commission.

64. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 15th January is glad to notice the publication of a new weekly, by name *Garjat-basini*, issued from Talcher under the patronage of the Raja of that State, and observes that though this is an evidence of the increasing intelligence of the Uriyas, it is nevertheless true that they are very bad paymasters, and like to be supplied with newspapers free of charge.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,  
Jan. 15th, 1902.

A new weekly in Orissa.



URIYA AND  
NAVASAMVAD,  
Jan. 14th, 1903.

65. The Coronation festivities still form the main topic of the Uriya papers for the week under report. The *Uriya* and *Navasamvad* is glad that the Maharani of Jaipur

has made a donation of one lakh to the Famine Relief Fund in honour of the Coronation. The *Utkaldipika*, though approving of the motives of the students of the Cuttack Medical School who acted as amateur dramatic personages in honour of the Coronation, is of opinion that the students should not have wasted their time in that way. The same paper proposes to reward some of the Coronation compositions by the help of the balance that may be in the hands of the Cuttack Coronation Committee at the end of the festivities. The same paper gives an account of the festivities as celebrated at Nayagan, Damarpur, Bhograe, Puri, Ersama, Nimapara, Ganja, Moharbhanj, Ghumsar and Berhampur. The *Samvad Vahika* gives a similar account for Lakhannath and Chandbali in the Balasore district and the *Uriya* and *Navasamvad* for Kendrapara, Akhuapada, Soro, Balasore and Khurda. All these accounts testify to the loyal enthusiasm of the natives of Orissa.

UTKALDIPIKA,  
Jan. 17th, 1903.

66. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 17th January states that though the Coronation festivities are over, and though the loyal demonstrations of the Indians knew no bounds, the people are disappointed to find that there was no allusion to the Queen's Proclamation of 1858 in the Viceroy's speech, and that there was no declaration of any liberal policy calculated to remove in no distant future the disabilities under which the Indians are labouring. The promise of a little financial relief to some of the Chiefs was not at all worthy of the grand and solemn occasion, and the Indians expected much more from an able and brilliant Viceroy like Lord Curzon.

The Proclamation and the Vice-roy's Darbar speech.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 31st January, 1903.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,  
Bengali Translator.